widely known, has been recently promoted to the rank of Vice Admiral in the Navy by Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the morale of the Navy will not suffer more so because Vice Admiral would be in line for succession to the post of Chief of Naval Staff ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (c) Based on the findings of the Board of Inquiry, instituted by the Chief of Naval Staff, to investigate the incident, appropriate disciplinary action was taken against several officers, including the then Eastern Fleet Commander. However, the latter officer had completed the tenure of the Displeasure awarded to him before his elevation, which was based on his overall service record, relative merit and seniority.

Construction of Ezhimala Naval Academy

1015. SHRI E. BALANANDAN :
SHRI M. A. BABY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether tender was invited to select the Master Plan for the construction of Ezhimala Naval Academy.

(b) if so, which area has been accepted from amongst the proposals;

(c) what would be the total cost of the construction of the Academy;

(d) by when it is likely to be commissioned;

(e) whether the rehabilitation of those who were there on the proposed site has been completed; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons for the delay in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) An all India open two-stage Architectural Competition was conducted to select the architects to design the Ezhimala Academy. The selected architects are preparing the Master Plan for the Academy.

(c) and (d) The total cost of construction of the proposal Naval Academy and the time frame for its completion/commissioning can be determined only after the Master Plan and the Detailed Project Report have been prepared and the Project sanctioned.

(e) The rehabilitation of the ousted families has been undertaken by the State Govt.

(f) Does not arise.

Modernisation of Indian Air Force

1016. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAV RAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the new progny of MiG aircrafts that are being manufactured in India in coordination with Russia;

(b) whether it is a fact that Russia doesn't want to collaborate with India in the field of new advance technology;

(c) if so, what is the alternate arrangement for the manufacture of advance aircraft which are required for Indian Air Force; and

(d) what steps the Government of India are taking to modernise its Air Force just to match with U.S.A. and other advanced countries ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) (a) MiG-27M is being manufactured at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) under a licence agreement with the erstwhile USSR.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

(d) The requirements for modernisation of the Defence Services, including the Indian Air Force, are reviewed by Government from time to time in the context of the threat perception and appropriate measures are taken to ensure full defence preparedness.

Situation of the line of actual control in North-West Border

1017. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the defence forces in the North-West border along the Line of